

**DEER HERD UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN**  
**Deer Herd Unit #5**  
**(East Canyon)**  
**April 2006**

**BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

**Morgan, Summit, Salt Lake and Davis counties** - Boundary begins at the junction of I-80 and I-84 (Echo Junction); southwest on I-80 to I-15; north on I-15 to its junction with I-84 near Ogden; east on I-84 to Echo Junction and I-80.

**LAND OWNERSHIP****RANGE AREA AND APPROXIMATE OWNERSHIP**

	Yearlong range		Summer Range		Winter Range	
Ownership	Area (acres)	%	Area (acres)	%	Area (acres)	%
Forest Service	561	14%	45802	19%	18626	21%
Bureau of Land Management	0	0%	173	0%	314	0%
Utah State Institutional Trust Lands	0	0%	754	1%	59	0%
Native American Trust Lands	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Private	3516	86%	188243	79%	65865	75%
Department of Defense	0	0%	193	0%	773	1%
USFWS Refuge	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
National Parks	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Utah State Parks	0	0%	0	0%	840	1%
Utah Division of Wildlife Resources	0	0%	2296	0%	1273	2%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4077</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>237461</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>87750</b>	<b>100%</b>

**UNIT MANAGEMENT GOALS**

To manage the deer population at optimum levels consistent with available habitat, and to cooperate in the improvement and/or acquisition of winter range as opportunity permits.

**POPULATION MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES**

< Target Winter Herd Size - Based on computer simulation modeling, the target herd population objective is to winter approximately 7,000 deer on the East Canyon Unit.

- Davis and Salt Lake County part (5A) - This part of the unit contains most of the public lands within the unit. The winter ranges are adjacent to the heavily populated "Wasatch Front" and are becoming very limited due to the impact of urban development. This area has been impacted heaviest and has had a 50% reduction of winter range. Therefore, the post-season winter population objective for this portion of the unit is approximately 1,500 deer.
- Morgan & Summit County part (5B) -A majority of the land within this portion of the unit is privately owned, and depredation can be a significant factor in determining the tolerable winter population objective. However, based on the past several years, 5,500 wintering deer is the current objective. Private landowners and local interest groups must be involved in management recommendations. Without their support and cooperation, management

objectives may not be realized and deer population control may not be possible.

These population objectives apply to both the short-term (5-year life of this plan) and long term, barring significant changes in range conditions.

- < Herd Composition – Maintain a three-year average post-season classification of a minimum of 15 bucks per 100 does counted.

	<b>Unit 5</b>	<b>Subunit 5A</b>	<b>Subunit 5B</b>
1994-2005 Objective:	9,500		
2003 Objective:	8,500	3,000	5,500
2006-2011 Objective:	7,000	1,500	5,500
Change since 2003:	-1,500	-1,500	0
	(due to loss of winter range in subunit 5A)		

## **POPULATION MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES**

### **Monitoring**

- < Population Size - Utilize checking station data, field collection of harvest data, post season and spring classification counts and range ride data in a computer model to estimate the winter population.
- < Harvest - Harvest strategies may include any or all of the following: general season buck only hunts, limited either sex permits and limited antlerless permits. These strategies will be used to provide a variety of hunter opportunities and to control deer populations as required, and to address depredation or range management objectives. Access management may also be used on certain parcels of winter range where appropriate, to alleviate excess harassment and provide increased security of big game.

### **Limiting Factors (May prevent achieving management objectives)**

- < Depredation Strategy - All depredation problems will be addressed as dictated by Utah Code and Division of Wildlife Resources policy.
- < Habitat - Excessive habitat utilization will be addressed.
- < Predation - Cougar populations will be managed at levels consistent with the deer population as determined by the management objective. Cougar permits will be authorized as determined by their population and depredation incidents. Animal Damage Control (Wildlife Services) will be utilized when livestock depredation occurs. Bear predation on livestock may be handled by Wildlife Services, livestock operator or bear permittees according to current rules and regulations. Harvest permits will be authorized for cougar and bear according to the populations as determined by the DWR.

**HABITAT MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES**

- < To maintain, enhance and protect all big game habitat within the unit to sustain a healthy population of deer as stated in the population objective.
- < Improve critical winter range habitat.
- < Provide big game escape cover/security by implementing access management where warranted.

**Condition of deer winter range on Unit 5, as indicated by DWR range trend surveys.**

Year	Mean DCI score for Unit	Classification	Unit specific DCI score range: Poor	Unit specific DCI score range: Fair	Unit specific DCI score range: Good
1996	40	Poor	35 to 49	50 to 64	65 to 79
2001	51	Fair to Poor			

**HABITAT MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES**

- < The Division of Wildlife Resources range trend survey crew will continue to monitor range conditions on a five to six year rotational basis as presently scheduled.
- < Cooperation and open working relationship with government agencies, private landowners/operators and local entities will be actively pursued to address all habitat related issues for the East Canyon unit. Range improvement projects will be considered and proposed for the benefit of all users of the rangelands.
- < Public access to the Division of Wildlife Resources Red Rock Canyon Wildlife Management Area (WMA) will be by horseback or foot only to reduce harassment and to encourage big game to remain on the area and to reduce depredation on adjacent private agricultural land.
- < Identify critical areas. The winter range below East Canyon Reservoir is very critical to significant number of deer. Fire burned a large area in 1991. Reseeding has been successful. In addition, volunteers planted browse in 1995, 1996 and 1997 but the plants require enough time to establish themselves. Consequently, deer numbers must not be allowed to increase too rapidly. The population was reduced significantly in the winter of 1992-3, allowing the range to recover slightly from decreased use. However, the deer are expected to increase quickly providing there are normal winters for the next few years.
- < Acquisition needs (easements, leases, trades, purchases): Additional winter range needs to be purchased, leased or protected as it becomes available.

**PERMANENT RANGE TREND SUMMARIES** (Added 2001)**Unit 5, East Canyon**

The East Canyon management unit is a highly human populated area and dominated by private land. Managing big game winter ranges therefore is often very difficult and a matter of educating the private landowner of the benefits of providing quality winter ranges for big game.

There are currently nine permanent range transect sites within the East Canyon unit, and they were last read and analyzed in 2001. All of the transects showed stable to improving conditions of soil, grasses and forbs. In addition, all but one site indicated stable to upward trends in browse vitality, although the amount of winter range continues to decrease due to human urban development. Two new transects were established in 1996, and showed range improvement in 2001. Red Rock Canyon is a DWR management area, and is an important wintering area for deer. Overall the range conditions appear to be stable to improving.

**Duration of Plan**

Draft 03/09/2006

This unit management plan was approved by the Wildlife Board on \_\_\_\_\_ and will be in effect for five years from that date, or until amended.